



## COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

<b>TITLE: PURSUIT</b>	<b>GENERAL ORDER NUMBER: 603</b>
<b>REFERENCES: M.S. § ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/2016</b>
<b>REVIEW DATE: 01/01/2019</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION: B</b>

This general order governs when a police officer may become involved in a pursuit, what rules should be adhered to, and when the pursuit should be abandoned. The purpose is to reduce risk to police officers, citizens, and property.

It is the primary mission of the Columbia Heights Police Department to protect lives while enforcing the law. In addition, it is the responsibility of the Columbia Heights Police Department to guide its officers in the safe and reasonable performance of their duties. To accomplish these goals, the following policy is provided to control and regulate the manner in which emergency vehicle operations are undertaken and performed. When engaged as an emergency vehicle as defined by statute, officers are granted exemptions from certain traffic laws. These exemptions are provided to help protect lives, not to place them at undue risk.

### 603:01 Definitions

#### 603:01:01 Pursuit

The attempt to stop another vehicle by a police vehicle when the emergency lights and siren have been activated and the subject vehicle fails to stop as required by law.

#### 603:01:02 Ramming

Any intentional contact or overt move to make contact, other than the Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) with the pursued vehicle by a pursuing vehicle.

#### 603:01:03 Stationary Roadblock

The placing of a vehicle in a nonmoving position in the roadway so as to block the escape route of the vehicle being pursued

#### 603:01:04 Rolling Roadblock

The use of a police vehicle in front of the fleeing vehicle in an attempt to slow it down or stop it as long as the police vehicle is moving forward and gradually reduces speed.

#### 603:01:05 Supervisor

A Columbia Heights police officer holding the rank of Sergeant or above.

#### 603:01:06 Senior Officer

The on duty officer with the earliest employment date as a full time sworn officer for the City of Columbia Heights. The senior officer will be the shift commander when no supervisor is on duty.

#### 603:01:07 Divided Highway

Any highway that has been separated into two or more roadways by:

- A. A physical barrier
- B. A clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic

#### 603:01:08 Channeling

To direct vehicular traffic into a progressively narrowing passageway or lane location on the roadway.

**603:01:09 Compelling Path**

The use of a channeling technique with a modified roadblock located at is narrow end. The compelling path differs from a termination roadblock in that the driver of any vehicle traveling the path has an exit option at the narrowed end.

**603:01:10 Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)**

A maneuver used to force a pursued vehicle to abruptly turn sideways to the direction of travel, causing the driver to lose control and stop.

**603:01:11 Dangerous Driving Conduct**

The operation of a motor vehicle that is so severely improper and dangerous that it is clearly evident that if the vehicle is not stopped there is reasonable cause to believe that an accident is eminent and that the safety of other citizens is indisputably threatened.

**603:02 Considerations of Pursuit**

An officer should consider and balance the relative danger of the pursuit with the public's interest in immediate apprehension. In evaluating whether to engage in, or continue the pursuit, officers should consider the following relevant factors, and should constantly reevaluate the factors throughout the pursuit:

- A. Nature and seriousness of the offense;
  - 1. When the suspects are alleged to have committed or attempted to commit a felony; or
  - 2. When the violation constitutes a continued danger to life; or
  - 3. When the officer reasonably believes that the driver of the vehicle was displaying DANGEROUS DRIVING CONDUCT as defined in 603.01.11 PRIOR to the officer activating emergency equipment.
  - 4. **No officer shall pursue for a misdemeanor traffic violation unless the officer reasonably believes that the driver of the vehicle was displaying dangerous driving conduct prior to the officer activating emergency equipment.**

- B. The degree of recklessness exhibited by the pursued driver;
- C. The ability of the officer to identify and apprehend the driver at a later time without continuing the pursuit;
- D. Road and weather conditions
- E. Whether the vehicle is a motorcycle or similar vehicle;
- F. The type and condition of the police vehicle;
- G. The officer's familiarity with the area;
- H. The time of day;
- I. The driving skills of the officer, and the driver of the pursued vehicle;
- J. Special hazards such as parades, road construction, etc.;
- K. The length of the pursuit;
- L. The amount of assistance available;
- M. Whether there is air support monitoring the pursuit;
- N. Passengers of vehicle being pursued, including ages and conditions.
- O. Additional information obtained during the course of the pursuit.

**603:03 Procedure**

- A. When an officer makes the decision to initiate a pursuit, they should:
  - 1. Operate emergency lights and siren at all times during a pursuit. The vehicle should be operated in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes.
  - 2. Advise the dispatcher of your car call number and that a pursuit has been initiated. The following information should be given to the dispatcher as soon as possible after initiating the pursuit:
    - a. Offense for which the suspect is being pursued
    - b. Suspect vehicle description, including license number if reasonably possible
    - c. Location, direction, and speed of pursued vehicle and squad car
    - d. Description of occupant(s) and/or suspect if known to the officer

- e. Any other pertinent information about the suspect vehicle or the environment.
- 3. Officers will rely upon the dispatcher to coordinate critical information, both as timely and accurately as possible. The dispatcher is also responsible for determining the radio channel used during the pursuit and to notify other agencies that may be affected.
- 4. Regularly evaluate the **considerations of pursuit** to justify continuing the pursuit. When it becomes apparent to the pursuing officer that the immediacy of the apprehension is outweighed by a clear and unreasonable danger to the officer or others, the pursuit should be abandoned.
- B. No more than two department vehicles may be involved in a pursuit unless unusual circumstances exist or authorized by a supervisor. However, this does not prohibit officers from monitoring the pursuit and maintaining a close proximity to assist as needed. **Only sworn employees shall be involved in a pursuit.**
- C. When a second police vehicle becomes involved in a pursuit, the role of the driver of that vehicle should be to:
  - 1. Keep a reasonably safe distance from the primary pursuit vehicle while maintaining an active role.
  - 2. Radio the route and pertinent information of the pursuit.
  - 3. Assist in suspect apprehension.
- D. Unmarked vehicles with activated emergency lights and siren may engage in a pursuit. As soon as a marked vehicle becomes available to take over the pursuit, the unmarked vehicle should withdraw and allow the marked unit to be the primary unit.
- E. If the officer has anyone other than a sworn officer, a Columbia Heights reserve officer, or a Columbia Heights Police Department employee in the vehicle, they may not become involved in a pursuit unless authorized by a supervisor.
- F. A supervisor or, when not present, the most senior officer available, may order officers to abandon the pursuit.
  - 1. Options for the supervisor or senior officer to keep in mind include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - a. In case involving wrong way drivers, parallel pursuits may be used.
    - b. Notification of next jurisdiction.
    - c. Channeling techniques may be used.
    - d. Creating a compelling path.
- G. When an officer becomes aware of injury to any person, they shall notify the dispatcher and request emergency medical response.
- H. Rolling roadblocks may be used, but only when authorized by a supervisor- or when not present, the most senior officer available- and the use conforms to the department policy on "Use of Force."
- I. Stationary roadblocks should be clearly visible, provide adequate warning and allow vehicles to come to a halt. Vehicles used in a stationary roadblock should not be occupied. Stationary roadblocks can only be authorized/canceled by a supervisor-or when no supervisor is present-the senior officer. Stationary roadblocks may constitute deadly force and may only be used when authorized under State Statute §609.066.
- J. Ramming may only be used in deadly force situations, and must comply with the department's Use of Deadly Force policy.
- K. Stationary roadblocks and ramming must only be used:
  - 1. To protect the peace officer or another from apparent death or great bodily harm;
  - 2. To effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of deadly force; or
  - 3. To effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or

attempted to commit a felony if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm if the person's apprehension is delayed.

- L. Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) **Only Officers who are trained in the Pursuit Intervention Technique may use it.**

The primary concern in all pursuits is safety of the public and officers. It is essential that all pursuits be terminated as quickly as possible. Once an officer is certain that a subject is starting to flee, the officer should immediately seek and use opportunities to end the pursuit with a pursuit intervention technique. It is appropriate to use at any time in a pursuit when it can successfully shorten the pursuit and reduce the risk to the public.

- M. Stop Sticks: Columbia Heights sworn officers may deploy the Stinger spike system or the stop stick system. Officers may deploy either of the tire deflation systems to terminate a pursuit provided they have considered the following factors prior to deployment.

1. Road conditions (leading to and after the deployment site)
2. Traffic conditions
3. Safety of deploying officer
4. Radio communications with all agencies involved in the pursuit or other operations
5. No use of the tire deflation device will be used on motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles
6. It will be the responsibility of the deploying officer to advise all agencies involved in the pursuit or other type of operation (multi-jurisdictional pursuits or other operations must be on the statewide channel) of location, lane affected and any other pertinent information. The deploying officer will be required to write a report documenting the use of tire deflation device. If a tire deflation system is deployed and sustains damage from a vehicle driving over it, gather up the device and deliver it to the Captain for repair or replacement.

#### **603:04 Multi-Jurisdictional Pursuit**

- A. When a pursuit by a Columbia Heights officer enters the jurisdiction of another police agency, the officer should request that the dispatcher notify that agency that a pursuit has entered their jurisdiction. If a squad from the jurisdiction entered is in position to call the chase, the primary pursuit vehicle may request that the squad do so.
- B. When assisting another agency which is pursuing a vehicle into our jurisdiction, Columbia Heights officers will not become involved if two or more police vehicles are already engaged in the pursuit unless unusual circumstances exist or authorized by a supervisor. However, this does not prohibit officers from monitoring the pursuit and maintaining a close proximity to assist as needed. If requested by the outside jurisdiction, a supervisor may authorize a Columbia Heights squad to enter a pursuit in order to call the pursuit.
- C. Columbia Heights officer will not engage in a pursuit that has been discontinued by another agency, unless there are factors that are consistent with department policy that would allow Columbia Heights Officers to pursue.

#### **603:05 Termination**

A pursuit should be terminated when any of the following circumstances exist:

- A. The suspect stops and is apprehended.
- B. The identity of the suspect has been established to a point that later apprehension can be accomplished and there is no longer any need for immediate apprehension.
- C. When, in the opinion of the officer, supervisor-or when a supervisor is not present, the most senior officer available-the level of danger created by the pursuit outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.

- D. The location of the pursued vehicle is no longer known.

**603:06 Reporting and Review**

- A. At the conclusion of any pursuit initiated or participated in, the primary officer in the pursuit - or if the primary officer is unable to complete the report, the supervisor or senior officer on duty - must complete a report. This information may be incorporated into any other report prepared by the primary officer. The report shall minimally include:
1. The reason for the pursuit, including specifically what information the officer knew at the time the pursuit began.
  2. The route of the pursuit as best as can be recalled.
  3. Traffic conditions, presence and location of citizens.
  4. Any violations the driver of the fleeing vehicle committed during the pursuit.
  5. Other Columbia Heights squads involved and any other agencies.
  6. Damage to any vehicles, property, and/or injury to any person.
  7. Supervisor on duty at time of the pursuit.
  8. Road and weather conditions.
  9. Time pursuit began and ended.
  10. How, where, and why the pursuit concluded or was abandoned.
  11. Charges filed, if any.
- B. The primary officer must also complete the Minnesota Pursuit Reporting Form as required by Statute §626.5531. If the primary officer is unable to complete this form, the form shall be filled out by the supervisor or senior officer on duty.
- C. The pursuit will be reviewed and critiqued by the Captain, and will include the supervisor, and officers involved as soon after the incident as possible. The Captain will submit a summary of the critique and applicable reports will be forwarded to the

Chief of Police. The critique will be done and applicable reports submitted for administrative uses, identification of training needs, and/or policy modification.

**603:07 Training**

- A. Each officer will receive training in the pursuit directive of the Columbia Heights Police Department Field Training Program.
- B. At least annually the pursuit directive will be reviewed as in-service training for all officers.
- C. As resources permit, all appropriate officers will attend and satisfactorily complete the Emergency Driving course presented by the Highway Safety Center in St. Cloud or a similar course approved by the department. The frequency of training attendance will depend upon course availability.

This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant existing departmental written directives.

**BY ORDER OF:**

Scott Nadeau, Chief of Police

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